

Story 805 (1970 Tape 18)

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[formerly Siği], kaza
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The Padişah's Youngest Daughter and Her Donkey-Skull Husband

There was once a padişah who had three daughters. When these girls had all reached a marriageable age, he had an announcement made by town criers everywhere in his land: "On such-and-such a day everyone is to assemble before the palace. My daughters on that day will seek their ^{Kismet} destiny.^{1 2} I shall give each of my daughters an apple. She will throw apple at the crowd of people, and whatever unmarried man her apple hits will become her husband."

On such-and-such a day all of the people gathered before the palace. The oldest daughter came to the balcony of the palace and threw her apple. It struck the son of the Padişah of Egypt. When the second sister came and threw her apple, it hit the son of the Padişah of Iran. Then it was the turn of the youngest daughter. She came and threw her apple from the balcony, and it fell upon a donkey skull that was rolling along in the street.

¹ That is to say, their marital destiny.

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"No! No! That can't be! Throw it again!" everybody shouted.

They brought the apple back to the girl, and she threw it again. Just as it had done before, the apple landed on the donkey skull.

Again the crowd shouted, "No! No! That can't be! Throw it again!"

She threw the apple a third time,² and again it struck the donkey skull. This time, everyone realized that there was no mistake. They all agreed: "It is her kismet³ to have the donkey skull!"

There was a large wedding shortly after that in which all three of the padişah's daughters were married. (This is a tale, you know. On the night of the final day of the wedding ceremonies, the brides were taken to the nuptial chambers of their husbands. When the youngest daughter went to the nuptial chamber, she noticed that the donkey skull

² In many cultures there is thought to be a finality about the third effort to do anything. While Americans say "Three times and out!" (probably a reference to baseball), Turks often say, "The chances of a Turk are three."

³ One's kismet is his/her lot, fortune, destiny. It is usually only an act of God that can alter the inevitability of one's kismet.

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 23, 28, 24, 38, 39
 as beginning to change. In less than a minute it had changed into the form of a handsome young man of eighteen.

Jabor
Secret
 23-24
 The youngest daughter was delighted with this change. Her husband gave her a warning, however. "You must never tell anyone about me. If I hear that you have told anyone of my present form, I shall leave, and you will never be able to find me--even if you wear out an (iron [✓]cane and a pair of iron shoes)." ⁴ - 23, 24, 25, 26

In those days many Turkish women used to go to the public bath on whatever days the baths were reserved for them. The first time that the youngest daughter went to the bath after her marriage, the other women there talked among themselves about her. When they saw her entering the bath, they said to one another, "Look! The wife of the donkey skull is coming." During the time she was there many such remarks were made, and, of course, some of these reached her ears. This made her nervous and it made her ^{angry} angry, but she could not tell any of the other women the truth about her husband. "This must be kept secret," she kept reminding herself, for she knew that if she revealed

⁴ Quests to recover enchanted spouses or to complete tasks are usually ordeals of great duration. To shorten these for the reader/listener, a raconteur may encapsulate them in formulaic descriptions. Obviously, by the time one has worn out an iron walking stick and a pair of iron shoes, he has gone a long, long way.

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the truth, she would lose her husband.

This annoying situation happened one day in the bath. It happened two days in the bath. It happened three days became disgusted with having the other women say, "There is the wife of the donkey skull. Look at her!"

One day when she was not able to stand this any longer, burst out, "Oh, the donkey's skull or something else's skull! My husband is really a young man who is like a ball celestial light,⁵ who is like a lion!"

"What? Is that so?" the other women asked.

This was exactly what the young man had feared would happen. He had climbed onto the dome of the bath and was listening to her conversation. When he heard her reveal the secret of his transformation, he descended and knocked on the door of the bath. When his wife came to the door, he said to her, "Now you have lost me forever! You will never be able to find me again, even if you should wear out an iron cane and a pair of iron shoes. Because you disobeyed my instruction to keep our secret, I must now say farewell." Saying this, he disappeared

⁵ The narrator describes this as nur topu. Top is ball. Nur is a kind of heavenly radiance, the stuff of which haloes and divine luminescence are made. A range of mountains in Southern Turkey is known among the folk as the Nur Mountains because of the splendid chiaroscuro which often plays across their peaks.

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The youngest daughter went immediately to the padişah and said, "My dear father, my husband was not really a donkey skull but a ball of celestial light, a lion!"

"Is that so?"

"Yes, but I have lost him by revealing this secret. I could not stand having the women at the bath make fun of me any longer, and so I told them of his real nature. He has gone, but I shall seek him and find him somehow."

Her father bought her an iron walking stick and a pair of iron shoes, and she set out at once on her search. She crossed mountain after mountain in her journey. After going for some distance, she came to a fountain. After a while she saw a girl approaching that same fountain, and the padişah's youngest daughter asked that other girl, "What is the name of this place?"

"This is the Pearl Mountain."

Pearl
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The padişah's daughter said,

You wear pearls in your hair

You wear pearl-studded clogs,

You come to this fountain for water--tıpış, tıpış.⁶

Have you seen my sweetheart pass this way?

Where is my sweetheart today?

⁶ Onomatopoeia for tripping along lightly with small steps.

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Pearl Maiden said, "He has gone to that other mountain--over there."

The youngest daughter picked up her iron walking stick again and traveled to that other mountain. As she walked along the base of that mountain, she came to a fountain. When another girl came to that fountain to get water, the padişah's daughter called to her, "What is the name of this place?"

This is the Gold Fountain," the girl said

Then the youngest daughter said to her,

You wear your golden dress

Put clogs of gold upon your feet

You come to the fountain for water--tipiş, tipiş.

Have you seen my sweetheart pass this way?

Where is my sweetheart today?

The Golden Maiden answered, pointing off in one direction, "He is on that mountain over there."

Again the padişah's youngest daughter began to walk, walking over mountain, over hill, over plain. As she approached the mountain to which she had been directed, she came to a fountain. When another girl came with a diamond covered pitcher to get water, she asked that other girl, "What is the name of this place?"

"This is the place called Diamond Fountain."

Then the youngest daughter said to her,
With your diamond-covered dress,
And diamond studded clogs,
You come to the fountain for water--tıpış, tıpış.
Have you seen my sweetheart pass this way?
Where is my sweetheart today?

The Diamond Maiden said, "Your sweetheart is on that high mountain--over there." She followed the directions she had been given to that mountain, and as she approached it, she saw a huge mansion on its lower level. Coming closer to that [?]mansion, she saw her husband looking out of its windows at her

When he recognized her, her husband rushed out in unbelief to meet her, saying, "My girl, how did you ever get here? What courage you must have had!"

"I have been looking for you from this place to that place, and now I have found you." She began to tell him some of the things that had happened along the way, how she had gone from mountain to mountain, how she had stopped at three different fountains and taken directions from three different girls.

"Very well," he said, "but come inside quickly!" Taking her inside the mansion, he said, "My mother, who is a giant woman, will be returning here very soon. If she

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Transformation
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should see you here, she would become terribly angry and punish you." Since he was not just an ordinary person but had magic powers, he slapped her once, and the daughter the padişah was turned into a broom.

Very soon after that, his mother arrived. She entered the mansion saying, "Ugh! Ugh! I smell a human girl here. She smells as if she could be the daughter of a padişah."

"Nonsense, Mother. There is no such thing!"

"Something smells bad. It smells! In my nose is the odor of the daughter of a padişah!"

"No, Mother, for fear of you no one comes near this mansion. How could a daughter of a padişah do such a thing?"

They argued this way until they went to bed. The mother of this boy was a giant. She was the owner of all the mountains through which the padişah's daughter had traveled to get there.

When morning came, they arose, and the mother prepared to go out to oversee her mountains. The boy said, "Mother, if a daughter of a padişah should happen to come this way, would you eat her? I ask you that."

"No, I wouldn't eat her if she should come, but, in fact, none has ever come. If one ever should, however, I promise not to eat her.

Having received her promise, her son slapped the broom,

re-appeared
and his wife reappeared. She could now live there with them. Before the giant woman left for her mountains, she said to her new daughter-in-law, "Girl, while I am gone, sweep or do not sweep the house. It is up to you." Saying that, she left. *JASH*

purpose of this
When his mother had gone, the young man went outside and took a short walk. When he returned to the mansion, he found his wife in tears. "Girl, why are you crying?" he asked.

"Why shouldn't I be crying? When your mother left, she said to me, 'Girl, while I am gone, sweep or do not sweep the house. It is up to you.' What can she mean by that?"

"Girl, there is nothing to wonder about in that. Sweep half the house and leave the other half unswept. That is the meaning of my mother's words."

The daughter of the padişah swept half of the mansion and left the other half unswept. In the evening the giant woman returned with a great roaring noise. When she looked at the work done by her daughter-in-law, she asked, "Girl, did my son teach you how to do this?"

"No, my dear mother. I just did the work you told me to do."

"Very well, then." Saying this, the giant sat down and started picking from her teeth the remains of animals which

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she had hunted and eaten that day. As she picked her teeth, she also gave orders to the girl to do this and do that and do something else. She did not, of course, want the girl in the house. But the evening passed and then the night.

In the morning the giant woman called the girl to her again and said, "Girl, while I am gone today, I want you to do something. Do you see these forty cauldrons?"

"Yes, I do."

"Well, I want you to weep enough during the day to fill these forty cauldrons with your tears.

"Alas! How can I ever fill up these forty cauldrons by weeping? Why, that is impossible!"

"Well, if you do not fill them by the time I have returned this evening, I shall eat you!"

Her husband did not hear this order, for he was outside the mansion in the garden at that time. The girl wept and wept and wept. When her husband came inside and found her he asked, "Girl, why are you crying?"

"Why shouldn't I be crying? Before your mother left she ordered me to fill these forty cauldrons with my tears before she returned this evening. How could anyone do that?"

"What can be easier than that? Don't cry about it. We can manage that matter very easily." Searching quickly around the kitchen of the mansion, they found a box of salt

Jack

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and poured a small amount of it into each of the forty cauldrons. Then they filled the ²cauldrons with water and made a mixture of salty water that tasted just like tears.

In the evening the giant woman riding a large earthenware pot⁷ that roared v-u-u-u-v⁸ as it came.

"Oh! Your mother is coming!" said the bride.

"Don't worry! Let her come."

When the giant woman entered the mansion, the first thing that she did was to go to the forty cauldrons. She dipped her finger into the first cauldron and tasted its content. It tasted like tears. Then she went to the second, the third, the fourth, and all the cauldrons, tasting their contents in that way. They were all filled with something that tasted like tears. "Aha!" she said. "My son taught you again how to do this, didn't he?"

"No, my dear mother. I have filled them by weeping hard all day."

In the morning the giant woman called, "Girl, come

⁷ Large earthenware vases, some as much as six feet tall, are used in the Middle East for storing water and other liquids. Such a large urn is called in Turkish küp. Turkish witches ride küps instead of broomsticks, and they are much more practical than broomsticks, for they provide a great amount of storage space! Here a different supernatural being, a giant woman, does the same.

⁸ Onomatopoeia for the flight noise of a küp.

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here." When the daughter of the padişah went to her, she said, "At the very peak of this mountain, there is another mansion. In that mansion on a shelf there is a closed box. You will go there, get that box, and bring it to me."

Just

Giving those orders, the giant woman left.

The daughter of the padişah began at once to cry in confusion. To herself she said, "A mansion at the peak of this mountain.--Difficult to reach.--That box, a closed box.--How can I bring it?" The girl cried and cried and cried

The young man came to her right away. He had magic powers, of course. He now asked her, "Why are you crying so?"

"Today your mother gave me some difficult work again."

"What did she say to you?"

"She said, 'There is another mansion on the very peak of this mountain. In that mansion on a shelf there is a box, a closed box. You will get that box and bring it to me. If you do not, I shall eat you.' That is what she said to me."

"Don't worry; don't worry, but listen carefully now to what I tell you. On your way to that other mansion you will come to a fountain. The water from one of its faucets is sweet; that from the other faucet is bitter. You will

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drink some of the water from the bitter faucet and say

Aman,⁹ O Fountain!

My soul, O Fountain!

What delicious water you have!

"Pass along quickly then, and you will soon come to a pear tree. Its fruit is sour--oh, much too sour to eat But you will take a bite from one of these pears and hold it in your mouth, saying,

Aman, O Pear Tree!

My soul, O Pear Tree!

What sweet fruit you have!

"Then pass along quickly. You will come to the mansion next, and you will see that it has double doors in front, one of which stands open and the other closed. Close the open door and open the closed door

"Then when you enter the mansion, you will find two animals guarding the inner hallway, a lion on one side and a horse on the other.¹⁰ Before the lion you will find a

⁹ There is no good equivalent in English for Aman! except in slang. It is similar to My gosh! or Goodness' sake! or Wow!

¹⁰ The narrator actually says that there are two lions there. The context indicates clearly that this is a slip of the tongue. It is a standard element of the folktale to have one carnivorous and one herbivorous animal with the incorrect kind of food before each. The herbivorous animal is usually a horse, though it may be a bull.

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trough of grass, and before the horse you will find a trough of meat. Take the grass and place it before the horse; then take the meat and place it before the lion.

"Go immediately then to the shelf and take the closed box. Run away with it, ^{Taken} ~~without~~ looking back, and being sure to keep it closed all of the time."

The girl set out at once and soon came to the fountain which had sweet water flowing from one faucet and bitter water from the other. Taking a drink of the bitter water, she said,

Aman, O Fountain!

My soul, O Fountain!

What delicious water you have!

Passing on quickly, she soon came to a pear tree whose fruit was very sour. Taking a bite of one of the pears and holding it in her mouth, she said,

Aman, O Pear Tree!

My soul, O Pear Tree!

What sweet fruit you have!

Moving along quickly, she then came to the mansion with double doors in front, one of which was open and the other closed. She opened the closed door and closed the open door

Inside these doors she found a lion standing guard on

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one side and a horse on the other. There was a trough of grass before the lion and a trough of meat before the horse. She switched these troughs so that the grass was in front of the horse and the meat in front of the lion.

She went then to the shelf, took the closed box, and started to run away with it, never once looking back. As she ran, she heard a loud voice say, "Catch her, lion! Stop her, horse!"

But the lion said, "Not I! I suffered for years trying to eat the grass placed before me, but she came and gave me meat!"

"Not I!" said the horse. "I went hungry for years trying to eat the meat placed before me, but she came and gave me grass!"

As she came to the front doors of that mansion, the voice shouted, "Stop her, closed door! Stop her, open door!"

"Not I!" said the closed door. "I stood open for years, but when she came along she closed me."

"Not I!" said the open door. "I stood closed for years, but she came and opened me."

She ran out of the mansion and started along the path down the mountain. Behind her she heard the voice shout "Block her path, pear tree! Block her path!"

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"Not I!" said the pear tree. "For many years no one would eat my fruit, but she took a bite of one of my pears said

Aman, O Pear Tree!

My soul, O Pear Tree!

What sweet fruit you have!

I'll not block her path!"

As she ran on, she approached the fountain, one of whose faucets poured out sweet water, and the other bitter water; she heard the voice behind her say, "Stop her, fountain! Flood her pathway and make it impassable!"

But the fountain said, "Not I! For years one of my faucets went unused, but she came along and drank water that faucet, saying,

Aman, O Fountain!

My soul, O Fountain!

What delicious water you have!

I'll not stop her!"

As she ran along toward the mansion of the giant woman, the daughter of the padişah opened the lid of the box a little to see what it contained. She had forgotten that her husband had warned her to keep it shut at all times. Immediately there flowed out of the box wild music--songs and exciting dance tunes. The girl began to dance

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uncontrollably, and everything around her also began to dance. Unable to stop dancing and unable to stop the music, she began to cry loudly.

When her husband heard the wild music, he ran to her and pushed the button that closed the box. "If I had not come, you would have died here," he said. "But now place the box here where my mother will find it when she comes home."

When the giant woman returned and found the box, she was very suspicious about how it got there. She asked the girl, "Didn't my son teach you how to get this box?"

She answered, "Oh, no, my dear mother. I found a way to bring it here myself."

The giant was very upset by this. She decided to eat the girl the next day without giving her any more difficult tasks to accomplish. But her son, who had magic power, was able to understand what was going on in her mind. When he went to bed that night, he said to his wife, "Let us escape from this place."

"How can we do that?" she asked.

"Later tonight, when we are sure that my mother is asleep, we shall flee from this mansion." At midnight they arose, and they went and went and went and went.

When the giant woman woke up, she saw that the boy and

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girl had disappeared. She mounted her earthenware pot, and Vu-u-u-v!--she flew after them. When the girl looked back, she said, "Alas, your mother is coming!" But the boy had magic power. He slapped the girl once, and she became a mosque. He slapped himself and became a minaret.

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When his mother reached the spot where they had disappeared, she looked around and saw nothing but a mosque and a minaret. "They are not here," she said

They abandoned their magic forms and continued to flee as they had before.

The uncle of the giant woman said to her, "Let me go and look for them this time." He went after them, but after a short time he returned without having seen any trace of them.

The giant woman's aunt then said, "Let me try now!"

Looking behind them, the daughter of the padişah said, "Alas, your mother's aunt is now pursuing us!" This time when the young man slapped his wife, she became a flock of sheep, and he became a shepherd.

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The aunt came along and called, "Ho, shepherd! Have a girl and a boy passed this way?"

He said, "The road goes in this direction as well as in the other direction. You can go either way on it

"God damn you! I didn't ask about the road. Did a

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boy and a girl pass this way?"

"Well, the road goes in this direction as well as in the other direction."

"God damn you again," she said, returning to the mansion with no more success than the uncle had had.

Then the giant woman said, "I'll go after them again. My son is doing all this! That flock of sheep is the girl, and that shepherd is my son." Mounting her earthenware jar, she sped toward them, Vu-u-u-u-v!

Looking back, the daughter of the padişah said, "Your mother is coming again!"

When he heard this, her husband, who had magic power, slapped the girl again, and this time she became a poplar tree. He slapped himself and became a terrible snake, a terrible snake poised to strike from atop the poplar tree. *Transformation*

When the boy's mother reached them, she said, "The poplar tree is the girl, and the snake is you, my son."

The snake now spoke, saying, "Now that you have caught us, Mother, let me kiss you for the last time." But he was deceiving her, for as he was kissing her, he opened his lips and the deadly snake venom entered her body. She died right there without even struggling.

He then slapped both the girl and himself to restore them to their normal forms. They began now to travel toward

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the home of her padişah father. As they approached town where he lived, everyone along the road, on both sides, began shouting, "The youngest daughter of our padişah is coming! The youngest daughter of our padişah is coming!" The padişah became almost delirious with delight at return of his daughter. He assembled all of the people and had his daughter married again in a ceremony that lasted for forty days and forty nights, and they lived very happily after that